INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
TRANSGENDER LAW AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY, INC.

THE INTERNATIONAL BILL OF GENDER RIGHTS

(As adopted by ICTLEP, August 28, 1993, Houston, Texas, U.S.A.)

This restatement of "The International Bill of Gender Rights" was drafted in committee and adopted by The International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Inc. (ICTLEP) at that organization's second annual meeting, held in Houston, Texas, August 26-29, 1993.

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THE INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO DEFINE GENDER IDENTITY:

All human beings carry within themselves an ever-unfolding idea of who they are and what they are capable of achieving. The individual's sense of self is not determined by chromosomal sex, genitalia, assigned birth sex or initial gender role. Thus, the individual's identity and capabilities cannot be circumscribed by what society deems to be masculine or feminine behavior. It is fundamental that individuals have the right to define, and to redefine as their lives unfold, their own gender identity, without regard to chromosomal sex, genitalia, assigned birth sex or initial gender role.

Therefore, each individual shall have the right to define their own gender identity, regardless of chromosomal sex, genitalia, assigned birth sex or initial gender role; and further, no individual shall be denied Human or Civil Rights on the basis that their self-defined gender identity is not in accord with chromosomal sex, genitalia, assigned birth sex or initial gender role.

THE RIGHT TO FREE EXPRESSION OF GENDER IDENTITY:

Given the right to define one's own gender identity, all human beings have the corresponding right to free expression of their self-defined gender identity.

Therefore, all human beings have the right to free expression of their self-defined gender identity; and further, no individual shall be denied Human or Civil Rights by virtue of the expression of a self-defined gender identity.

THE RIGHT TO CONTROL AND CHANGE ONE'S OWN BODY:

All human beings have the right to control their bodies, which includes the right to change their bodies cosmetically, chemically or surgically, so as to express a self-defined gender identity.

Therefore, individuals shall not be denied the right to change their body as a means of expressing a self-defined gender identity; and further, individuals shall not be denied Human or Civil Rights on the basis that they have changed their bodies cosmetically, chemically or surgically, or desire to do so as a means of expressing a self-defined gender identity.

THE RIGHT TO COMPETENT MEDICAL AND PROFESSIONAL CARE:

Given the individual's right to define their own gender identity, and the right to change one's own body as a means of expressing a self-defined gender identity, no individual should be denied access to competent medical or other professional care on the basis of the individual's chromosomal sex, genitalia, assigned birth sex or initial gender role.

Therefore, individuals shall not be denied the right to competent medical or other professional care, when changing their body cosmetically, chemically or surgically, on the basis of chromosomal sex, genitalia, assigned birth sex or initial gender role.

THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSIS OR TREATMENT:

Given the right to define one's own gender identity, individuals should not be subject to psychiatric diagnosis or treatment solely on the basis of their gender identity or role.

Therefore, individuals shall not be subject to psychiatric diagnosis or treatment as mentally disordered or diseased, solely on the basis of their expression of a self-defined gender identity.

THE RIGHT TO SEXUAL EXPRESSION:

Given the right to a self-defined gender identity, every consenting adult has a corresponding right to free sexual expression.

Therefore, no individual's Human or Civil Rights shall be denied on the basis of sexual orientation; and further, no individual shall be denied Human or Civil Rights for expression of a self-defined gender identity through sexual acts between consenting adults.

THE RIGHT TO FORM COMMITTED, LOVING RELATIONSHIPS AND ENTER INTO MARITAL CONTRACTS:

Given that all human beings have the right to free expression of a self-defined gender identity, and the right to sexual expression as a form of gender expression, all human beings have a corresponding right to form committed, loving relationships with one another, and to enter into marital contracts, regardless of their own or their partner's chromosomal sex, genitalia, assigned birth sex or initial gender role.

Therefore, individuals shall not be denied the right to form a committed, loving relationship with another, and to enter into marital contracts, regardless of their own or their partner's chromosomal sex, genitalia, assigned birth sex or initial gender role.

THE RIGHT TO CONCEIVE OR ADOPT CHILDREN; THE RIGHT TO NURTURE AND HAVE CUSTODY OF CHILDREN AND EXERCISE PARENTAL RIGHTS:

Given the right to form a committed, loving relationship with another, and to enter into marital contracts with another, together with the right to sexual expression of one's gender identity, individuals have a corresponding right to conceive or adopt children, to nurture children and have custody of children, and to exercise parental rights with respect to children, natural or adopted, without regard to chromosomal sex, genitalia, assigned birth sex or initial gender role.

Therefore, no individual shall be denied the right to conceive or adopt children, or to nurture and have custody of children, or to exercise parental rights with respect to natural or adopted children, on the basis of their own, their partner's or their children's chromosomal sex, genitalia, assigned birth sex or initial gender role.

NOTES:

The International Bill of Gender Rights is based on two similar documents drafted independently in 1991 by JoAnn Roberts and Sharon Ann Stuart. Copies of these documents can be obtained by request to the address below. Please enclose $3.00 for copy cost and postage.

The International Bill of Gender Rights is distributed by The International Bill of Gender Rights Project, an activity of the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Inc. Individuals and organizations are invited to consider and adopt this statement as their own expression of principles and truths with respect to the gender rights of all human beings.

Comments and proposed revisions are invited and should be addressed to: International Bill of Gender Rights Project, P.O. Box 930, Cooperstown, NY 13326. Telephone: (607) 547-4118. Voice messages and telefacsimile transmissions can be accommodated by the same telephone number.